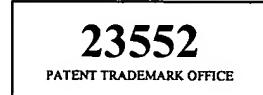


REMARKS

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 was cancelled and new claims 36-40 have been added. Claims 36-40 remain pending in the application.

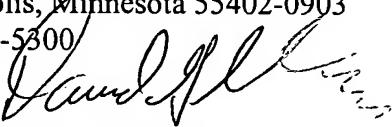
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Dated: January 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Signed: 
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DSchmaltz/aml